Issue No. 22 (For Private Circulation Only)

VININAAG January to June 2014

Smit. Commilier Bababhai Shak TARUN SADAN

> PLOT No. 21 Sector 23 Opar Khaira

TARUN SADAN (Vinimay Trust's Transition Hostel) Koparkhairane, Navi Mumbai

FROM THE EDITORIAL DESK

Dear Friends,

Someone once said, "You don't know how strong you are until being strong is the only choice you have." To a young boy of eight who along with his sister was orphaned, being strong was the only choice he had. Our column, "Spreading our Wings" takes you through the story of Kiran Chache, who by sheer grit and determination to make it in life is today a successful working man with a happy family.

Our column, "Back to our Roots" brings you the story of Jitu who realized a latent need for knowing his family just before he was scheduled to leave Tarun Sadan (Vinimay's transition hostel for youth coming out of Child Welfare Institutions). This feature details the efforts of our hostel superintendent Rajendra Sir who successfully helped Jitu in tracing his family and getting reunited with them.

Friends – we at the editorial team have been bringing you Vinimag – our bi-annual newsletter under the mentorship of Dr. A.K. Das who is a longstanding Vinimay volunteer and also a trustee. It is with great pride and joy that we inform you about Dr. Das's appointment as the Vice Chancellor of Utkal University. We would like to wish him all success in his new endeavor.

A round up of our regular activities during the period Jan to June 2014 also forms part of this newsletter. To keep us motivated, we request all our readers to send us your contributions and/ or feedback to info@ vinimaytrust.org or to the postal address given at the end of this newsletter.

Warm regards,

Editorial Team

Dr. A.K. Das Mrs. Kala Mahadevan Ms. Anita Ramachandran Mr. Ankit Pilania



"Spreading our Wings"

"It shouldn't be easy to be amazing. Then everything would be. It's the things you fight for and struggle with before earning that have the greatest worth. When something's difficult to come by, you'll do that much more to make sure it's even harder-or impossible-to lose."

This quote by Sarah Dessen a noted fiction author is a befitting beginning for this article that will take you through the journey of Kiran Gunaji Chache's life.

Kiran was born on 14th June 1978 in Mumbai. During his childhood, his family lived together in Sewri, Mumbai but a few years later due to some personal issues, his parents separated. Kiran and his elder sister continued living with their mother and they seldom met their father. Kiran was around 8 years old at this time. Around 1985-86, Kiran's mother moved with her children to Airoli and soon after, fell seriously ill and was bed ridden. With no other source of income, Kiran & his sister managed to bring home money by working in hotels, collecting scraps etc. His mother's health continued to deteriorate and her demise in 1986 hit them very hard as now they only had each other in life. One of their neighbors' informed the police that these children were all alone in the world and thus Kiran and his sister were moved to Bhiwandi Observation Home. Soon, the brother and sister were separated – his sister was transferred to another child care institution while Kiran continued at Bhiwandi for around 7 months and was later moved to Ulhasnagar Observation Home where he lived for another 3 months. All through the time that he was being moved from one institution to another, Kiran never forgot about his sister and always kept wondering if he would ever get to meet her again. In the year 1987, Kiran arrived at Chembur Children's Home (CCH) and joined Madhyamik Vidyalay in Std 3. It was around this time that the Vinimay play centre program was introduced at CCH. Kiran fondly remembers meeting and interacting with Vaidya Sir, Venkat Sir & Das Sir (all Vinimay volunteers) at that time and has some fond memories of the Holi celebrations at CCH too.

As years went by, Kiran and a few other students who were serious and keen about studies started visiting Das Sir's house for tuitions regularly. The coaching provided by Das Sir helped Kiran immensely and with the guidance of the Vinimay volunteers and his own dedication and hard work, Kiran passed Std 10 with flying colors.

At the age of 17, having completed Std 10, a big question that lingered in Kiran's mind was - What next? And once again he turned to his mentors at Vinimay who helped him in deciding his next step in life. Kiran decided to study further and go to college. Then came the dilemma of choosing between going to college and doing a graduation or doing the ITI course which would provide him employable skills. It was at this point that he sought advice from Venkat Sir (of Vinimay) and decided to pursue ITI course. Due to his sterling academic and behavioral record, the authorities at CCH granted him a 1 year extension stay at CCH. Post completion of the ITI course, Kiran landed his first job- an apprenticeship at CEAT tyres for 1 year at Rs 770/month which in those days was a princely sum in his eyes. Time passed and soon he had to move out of CCH. He then jointly rented a place at Agarwadi with another ex-CCH member Manish Kedar who was a rock of support to Kiran during those days.

After his apprenticeship, Kiran took up his first official job at Esteem Securities for about a week, after which he received a call for a fitter's job at Modi Foods Ltd which he took up. He underwent 1 year of training at Modi Foods and continued working there for another 10 months. One day he received an offer from CEAT Tyres as a fitter. The job involved a year of training and a thereafter permanent position with Rs 7000/month as salary. Kiran went back to CEAT and worked there for a short time before applying to BARC. When he got selected at BARC, he had to choose between staying on in a higher paying private job or opting for a lower paying but secure government job. Here again, his Vinimay mentor Das Sir counseled him and he eventually joined BARC in December 2000. In 2002, he became a permanent employee of BARC after a two year training at Dhruva Reactor. The year 2002 was also a landmark year for Kiran as he was reunited with his elder



sister who had been separated from him in early childhood. It was nothing less than a miracle! Vinimay Trust, along with another NGO called Our Children, had organized a five-day sports meet "BalMahotsav" in which Kiran participated. One day, he noticed a girl sitting under a tree chatting with her co-students of Shraddhanand Mahila Ashram. It was Ashwini, Kiran's long-lost sister! To his delight, she also had completed her studies (Std 10 and ITI Course). After a long separation, both brother and sister were together for a few years till Kiran's sister got married. Kiran was still keen on further studies and now that he was settled in his job, enrolled himself into a part time Diploma in Mechanical Engineering at Vidyavihar Polytechnic. In the year 2004, he also invested in his own house with some financial help from Vinimay Trust.

Soon after completing his first semester exams, Kiran took another step towards settling down in life. He wedded Swati, a girl whom he had met at a friend's wedding in January 2005. Their bundle of joy Yash was born in 2007 and is currently studying at Ryan International School.



Kiran with wife Swati and son Yash

Today Kiran and his family are well settled and have bought a second home thereby progressing towards financial security. Kiran proudly tells us how he has come from being orphaned to having his own family and earning handsomely today. He is ever fond of his mentors at Vinimay and is today one of our ever growing list of beneficiaries who have turned into Vinimay volunteers. Kiran Sir as he is fondly known at Vinimay, is involved in multiple programs like Vinimay's Week – long Outstation Camps for children of CWIs, conducting Tarun Vinimay meetings & other activities like Vinimay's Birthday Program conducted at CCH.

As we come to the end of our conversation, Kiran very reverently talks about the love, support, and guidance that Vinimay family has given him at every phase of his life and today he feels like they are an integral part of his and his family's circle. His involvement at Vinimay he feels is incumbent and his own small way of giving back as much as he can to some other child who is in need.

"Back to our Roots"

Jitendra Prabhakar Pawar, fondly known as Jitu within the Vinimay family, joined Tarun Sadan at the age of 18 after being discharged from After Care Hostel, Mumbai. He had lived in various Child Welfare Institutions from the tender age of four and had only fleeting memories of his family. Prior to Mumbai, he had stayed at Boys Home, Yevatmal and at Shishusadan in Aurangabad.

Life went on for Jitu in our hostel and soon it was time for him to leave Tarun Sadan and strike out into the world on his own. As with many of our Tarun Sadan boys, diving into real world without the protection and guidance of one's family is a real challenge and it was no different for Jitu. Upon his request, Vinimay decided to help him to trace his family. Rajendra Sir, superintendent of Tarun Sadan, took it upon himself to find Jitu's relatives. His unrelenting efforts paid off and Jitu was reunited with his family after a gap of 17 years. This column presents a brief sketch of this inspiring endeavor.

The first starting point for any family tracing is to understand whether the boy remembers any of his family members or place of origin or whether there are any documents which

can help us in tracing the family quickly. In Jitu's case, the only memory he had was that of his "Sanju Mama" whose whereabouts were not known. His file however contained the name and address of the person who admitted him to ShishuSadan - one Mr. Narwade of Rajwada, Kannad, Aurangabad district. Rajendra Sir decided to use this piece of information as the starting point for the tracing. Both Rajendra Sir and Jitu took a train to Aurangabad one day. They reached late evening and to his dismay, Jitu could not locate any familiar landmarks. They checked into a small lodge and chalked out their course of action for the next day. After a good night's rest, they started early the next morning. Rajendra Sir managed to get the phone number and address of the After Care Hostel from David Sassoon Industrial School (DSIS). The staff at After Care Hostel was very cordial and helpful but they could not find any old record pertaining to Jitu's stay there. Rajendra sir then approached Children's Observation Home but there too he could not get any useful information. He also tried at Women & Child welfare department and filed an application for information but to no result. Tired but not dejected, they decided to leave for Kannad after lunch to look for Mr. Narwade. On enquiring about location of Rajwada – a Buddhist Colony, where Mr. Narwade stayed, they were told by the locals that there were two such colonies in Kannad. One of them was located near a residential area and was much older compared to the other one which was located near an industrial area. Rajendra Sir decided to try at the older Colony first. They reached Kannad in the evening and proceeded towards Rajwada. Their enquiry led them to a shopkeeper who fortunately knew Mr. Narwade. He gave them the address of Mr. Narwade's place. Upon reaching the place, Jitu immediately identified it. However, the house was sold to someone else who had no idea about the whereabouts of Mr. Narwade or his family. Upon sustained enquiries with the locals, they managed to get the address of a relative of Mr. Narwade. That relative turned out to be Jitu's grandfather's brother who in turn led them to Jitu's maternal aunt who narrated the full account of Jitu's childhood and how he got separated. Upon the death of his parents, Jitu and his elder brother were admitted to ShishuSadan by their maternal uncle Mr. Sanjay Narwade

(whom Jitu remembered as Sanju mama) due to financial constraints. The boys would visit their family for festivals and on one such occasion, while Jitu's elder brother was visiting his family, ShishuSadan was suddenly closed down and all the children were transferred to different child care homes. Jitu was transferred to a home in Yavatmal but due to lack of information, his relatives could not trace him there and ultimately gave up. From Yavatmal, Jitu was again transferred to Aftercare, Mumbai and from there he moved into Tarun Sadan.

After hearing the entire story, Rajendra Sir and Jitu left for Aurangabad from Kannad to meet Sanjay mama accompanied by a relative. Jitu's entire extended family was assembled there. They welcomed them with open arms and the environment became charged with emotion. Tears of joy could be seen in everyone's eyes. They were very grateful to Rajendra Sir for bringing Jitu back to them. They insisted that Rajendra Sir should stay at their place for the night and arranged tickets for his return journey. They also hosted a grand dinner to welcome them and gifted Rajendra Sir sweets and clothes. Jitu's family had no word to express their sincerest gratitude to Rajendra sir and Vinimay without whom they felt this reunion would not have been possible. Jitu stayed with them for a fortnight before coming back to Mumbai to join his work.

Jitu left Tarun Sadan in February 2014 and is currently gainfully employed. He is in constant touch with his extended family. It has been another successful attempt for Rajendra sir and he remains as determined and focused as ever in his efforts at family tracing.



Activity Round up

I. Child Welfare

A. Making Learning Fun with Vinimay's Camps

Vinimay, through its "Making Learning Fun" camps attempts to merge learning with fun activities for the children from various CWIs. This year too, weeklong camps were held for girls at Tarapur and for boys at Khandala. Fifty one girls and fifty boys from 12 CWIs from Mumbai participated in the camps. This year B.J. Home for Children (Matunga, Mumbai) and Narayan Chandra Trust (Nalasopara) participated for the first time. Usually these camps are held for children in the age group of 14 to 18 years; however, this year, even younger children of 12-14 years were also taken for the camp.

Whilst all our learning activities like group discussions, talks and lectures etc were part of the camps, this year a new creative activity of building a model of a fort with clay and rocks was introduced at the camp for boys. The children gave free rein to their creative skills and produced excellent models.

An interesting snippet which we would like to share with our readers is that when Kiran Sir, one of Vinimay's volunteers (and Assistant Camp Leader for the girls camp) applied for leave from his office for attending the camp, his superior Mr. A.K Zope was so impressed by the social work being done by Kiran Sir, that he not only granted him leave but also made a donation towards the camp. We appreciate Mr. Zope's gesture and thank him with humility and gratitude.



Cultural Program at Tarapur Camp



Fancy dress competition at Tarapur Camp



Fort model making at Khandala Camp

B. Education

• Vinimay volunteers met the Std X children from CCH, BKN and DSIS on 26th Feb 2014 and wished them for their board exams.

- A total of 57 students appeared for the Std X exams from CCH, BKN and DSIS. Of the 16 students who appeared from CCH, 13 passed their exams, while out of 18 who appeared from BKN, 10 cleared. Out of the 23 students who appeared from DSIS, 5 cleared the exam.
- Kalpesh Mhatre and Jeevan Joshi from CCH secured high scores of 88.6% and 75.4% respectively.

• Vinimay had discussions with Mahesh Tutorials as a result of which Mahesh Tutorial Classes extended their activities to CCH.

• Vinimay felicitated all the Std X boys from CCH who had cleared their exams and gifted them bag-pack bags and chocolates.

C. Trips and Outings

• Around 52 boys of Std X from DSIS, CCH and BKN along with their escorts from the CWIs and Vinimay volunteers went for a picnic trip to Shiv Ganga Water Park at Panvel on 25th March 2014. Water parks are always a source of fun for children and it was no different in this case. Vinimay however, also took this opportunity to have a talk with the boys about their future plans. The outing was a well deserved break from a rigorous year of studies and the boys enjoyed themselves thoroughly and came back completely refreshed.







D. Other Activities

• Vinimay's Annual Program at BKN was held on 4th Jan 2014 and was a huge success. Activities at the program included quiz and field games for the children. The children enjoyed the program immensely.

• Vinimay sponsored expenses of Rs. 9000 for about 60 CCH boys who attended a sports camp for 3 days.

• Our "Daily Pav" breakfast scheme for the children at BKN and DSIS continued as usual.

• Vinimay supplied 10 litres of milk and required sugar thereof everyday to the children at CCH. The average monthly expense for this was around Rs. 10000/- per month.

II. Youth Welfare / Tarun Sadan

• During the period Jan to June 2014, there were 17 new admissions and 12 farewells at Tarun Sadan.



• Vinimay Milan, our annual get-together of the entire Vinimay family was held on 26th Jan 2014. Around 300 members including volunteers and their families, Tarun Sadan boys, members of Tarun Vinimay and other beneficiaries attended the function. The program included a variety quiz competition which was hugely enjoyed by all present and a housie game which as usual was a great hit.

• Vinimay organized a picnic for the boys of Tarun Sadan to Elephanta Caves in January 2014. Around 44 boys alongwith a few Vinimay volunteers went for the picnic. All the participants enjoyed themselves a lot.

• Our Annual Day Program was organized at Tarun Sadan on 25th May 2014. Various games like Carrom, Cri cket, Running race, Quiz, Drawing Competition and other fun games were conducted. The boys participated very enthusiastically and the program was a huge success.

New Beginnings

• Vinimay volunteer Nilesh Mapgaonkar was blessed with a second child on 28th Jan'14. Nilesh participates as a full time volunteer in our week long camps for children & has been the camp leader on many occasions. We welcome "Bhakti", the new arrival into our fold.

• Sandeep Khare, Krushnakant Nikam, Yogesh Gaikwad and Mayur More successfully cleared their ITI program and started their NCTVT training.

Kind Gestures

• Mr. Suresh Rao (a well wisher of Vinimay) donated all the cash gifts received (Rs. 30000/-) at his son's wedding to Vinimay Trust. We are truly humbled by his noble gesture.

Remembrances

• Mrs. Madhuram Thiagarajan, mother of Suganthi Padmanaban (Vinimay volunteer) left for heavenly abode on 8th Jan'14. She was very progressive in her outlook & was a constant source of encouragement to both Mrs. Suganthi & Mr. Padmanaban in their work with Vinimay.

• Mr. Ravindra Dave, Vinimay Trust's auditor since 2006, passed away suddenly at Vaishno Devi while on a pilgrimage. It was a sudden and untimely demise as he was only 36 years old.

Donate generously

• Your Donation of Rs. 5,00,000 (Rs. Five Lakhs only) can help us to cover the expenses of one youth at Tarun Sadan on an ongoing basis

- For Rs. 30,000 you could sponsor the cost of groceries for one month at Tarun Sadan
- For Rs.10,000 you could sponsor the cost of vegetables for one month at Tarun Sadan
- For Rs. 3000 you could sponsor monthly expenses of one youth at Tarun Sadan
- For Rs.6000 you could sponsor the Annual get together dinner for 50 children
- For Rs.6000 you could sponsor a weeklong camp for 5 children
- For Rs.3000 you could sponsor the birthday of 25 children or birthday clothes for 10 children
- For Rs.1500 you could sponsor Supplementary Nutrition Program for 300 children



Donations to Vinimay Trust are exempted under Section 8oG of the Income Tax Act.Vinimay Trust is registered under the Foreign Contribution Act and is authorized to receive donations in foreign currency.

Cheques may be drawn in favour of "Vinimay Trust" and sent to VINIMAY TRUST, C.B.S. Tarun Sadan, Plot 21, Sector 23, Kopar Khairane, Navi Mumbai - 400 709.

• You can also send your donations directly by NEFT to the following bank account:

Name of A/c	:	Vinimay Trust
Bank	:	Punjab National Bank
Branch	:	Kopar Khairane
IFS Code	:	PUNB0662700
A/c No.	:	1207000100256662

How You can Help

Work as a volunteer Contact Smt. Manini Ganguly (Cell: +919920358804)

> **Fund a program** See details provided

Spread the word Help us spread our message to others



From our Photo Archives



Education session at Khandala camp



Kabaddi Match- Bal Mahotsav



Chess in progress- Bal Mahotsav



Curiosity Corner- Bal Mahotsav



Mehndi Competition- Bal Mahotsav



Cultural Programme at camp site



Cultural Programme at camp site



Boys at Khandala camp

VINIMATTrust

FOR UNDERPRIVILEGED CHILDREN & YOUTH

Reg. Office : C.B.S. Tarun Sadan. Plot No.-21, sector-23, Koper Khairane, Navi Mumbai-400709. Website- www.vinimaytrust.org Email- info@vinimaytrust.org